



Photo by Airman Ryan Wilson

New inductees

Chief Master Sgt. Keith Cobb, 509th Bomb Wing command chief master sergeant, administers the chief master sergeant oath to Whiteman's seven inductees at a ceremony Feb. 13. They are: (front row) Senior Master Sgts. Dana Phillips, 325th Bomb Squadron, and Steph Page, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Chief Billy Sheridan, 509th Operations Support Squadron, (back row) Senior Master Sgts. Andres Alvarez, 509th Maintenance Squadron, Bobby Rush, 509th Bomb Wing, Brian Agan, 509th AMXS, and John Little, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron.

AF limits re-enlistment window to three months

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force personnel officials are changing the re-enlistment eligibility window beginning March 5.

The new policy requires active-duty airmen to re-enlist within three months of their term of service expiring, a change from the 12-month window currently in effect.

"In our effort to shape the force, we continue to seek areas that will give us greater management oversight," said Master Sgt. Maria Cornelia, the Air Force's chief of retention and bonus programs at the Pentagon.

"It's going to make people make their decision to re-enlist or not re-enlist a lot quicker because that 12-month time frame has been reduced to three," said Senior Master Sgt. Bobby Rush, 509th Bomb Wing career assistance adviser.

"We want our airmen to understand that we're not discouraging re-enlistments," Sergeant Cornelia said. "By reducing the eligibility window, Air Force officials will have a better picture of how many re-enlistments we can expect within a given period."

Narrowing the window will also help officials with forecasting requirements for personnel programs such as selective re-enlistment bonuses, career job reservations and retraining, Sergeant Cornelia said.

"The military personnel flight has done a fantastic job with the quick change to policy," Sergeant Rush said. "They just held two mass briefings for everyone that was in the 12-month re-enlistment window to help them understand the new policy."

This policy shift is not something new, but a return to the policy in place before 2001. The eligibility window was expanded from three to 12 months during a low-retention period.



Photo by Senior Airman Shawn Clements

Airman 1st Class Carly Evans, 509th Mission Support Squadron, briefs Whiteman members on the new policy change.

"Getting a better picture of retention indicators will greatly enhance our ability to optimize personnel programs," Sergeant Cornelia said.

"This system is fair and it's going to work for the men and women of the Air Force," Sergeant Rush said.

Airmen will still be authorized to re-enlist earlier than three months from their term of service expiring because of service-related requirements, such as a reassignment and promotion.

For more details, call the MPF at 687-6427.

9-Line Target



**Welcome LSET inspectors —
Get ready to meet the best!**

News in Brief

CMSU military appreciation day set

The Central Missouri State University men's and women's basketball teams host a military appreciation day Feb. 28. Military members and their families get in free with a military identification card. The women's game begins at 1 p.m. while the men's game starts at 3:30 p.m. Vouchers for a free hot dog, chips and drinks will be provided by the Warrensburg Military Affairs Committee.

TSP malfunction being fixed

The military pay system didn't correctly update tax information in regards to Thrift Savings Plan contributions on some military members' pay records in January and February. The Defense Finance Accounting Service is running a program to fix the problem by the end of February. For more details or if a pay problem persists after the end of the month, call finance at 687-7911.

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Weather

Saturday

Mostly cloudy



H 39 °

L 23 °

Sunday

Mostly cloudy



H 44 °

L 28 °

For more complete weather information, visit <https://www.whiteman.af.mil/509oss/osw/index.htm>. Courtesy of 509th OSS/OSW

Commander's Corner

By Brig. Gen. Doug Raaberg
509th Bomb Wing Commander

IT'S TIME TO OFFER SOME UNIQUE ASSISTANCE.

I was absolutely surprised to find out that last year our airmen received nearly \$200,000 in grants, loans and aid from the Air Force Aid Society. What a profound touch of grace for many of our team members and their families who needed some assistance during difficult times. Per chance, if I asked any first sergeant if they personally directed someone in their squadron to the family support center to apply for help, they would resoundingly exclaim, "Yes!" Not for one ... but for many needy airmen. In fact, most squadron commanders will tell you they have some individuals who clearly need that extra dollar to get through some hard times; perhaps just to afford the plane ticket to attend a funeral back home. If anything, we implore you to make the difference this year for our airmen ... yes, our airmen need unique assistance.

The Air Force Assistance Fund is the only program where airmen help airmen. What we give returns to the direct aid of our men and women who proudly wear the Air Force uniform. Let me ask a more candid question ... have you ever received a "donation" yourself



(particularly from the Aid Society)? This is your chance to return a favor in kind. There's a blessing in providing this one-of-a-kind support ... we profoundly change the outlook of airmen in need. They begin to realize the Air Force family will take care of them when they are at home or deployed, even while serving a remote tour.

Our campaign kicks off March 1. We have a simple goal: to give to our Whiteman (read Air Force) team in a way we

have never given before! Over the next six weeks we need to give our assistance fund drive a boost, if for one thing only ... our airmen. This isn't a challenge. Instead, it's a call for assistance. In times of expeditionary rotations, our need is even greater.

So, how generous is the Air Force Aid Society? Let me explain. There's something you may not have realized. Those thousands of "free" phone cards you received in the deployment line as we shipped off to Operation Iraqi Freedom were paid for by the Air Force Aid Society ... through donations from those who care — you! Airmen helping airmen. It's that simple.

A SALUTE TO OUR SERVICES TEAM. You would never know that our Services Squadron has more than 20 members deployed to contingency operations. They are providing an extra measure of

quality of life "on the front lines" just as they do at home. Despite this heavy deployment cycle, our Services team continues to rock! Last week alone many of you attended a phenomenal performance by Tops in Blue. They, too, have returned from various deployment locations around the globe performing for hundreds of thousands of service members and communities. I want to personally thank Services for arranging this extraordinary performance. I would also like to publicly thank our community partner, Sedalia, for hosting the Tops in Blue cast for another home-cooked dinner after the show.

You may not know this, but our Mission's End club consistently ranks No. 1 in Air Combat Command as the best of the best clubs! Last weekend was no exception as they hosted a superb Valentine dinner for our members. Your participation is making the difference ... your membership is valued! With the warmer weather, we encourage you to join us at the club for the many activities and culinary adventures. They are working for you.

LSET STANDS FOR BASIC MAINTENANCE AND LOGISTICS. Next week the Logistics Standardization and Evaluation Team from ACC will visit us for the first time. This will be a week-long inspection of our true combat capability. I know what you're thinking: the true test comes in war. I can't contest that; however, I will equally contend that our performance in combat is directly tied



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

2nd Lt. Will Babor, Staff Sgt. Adam Prazak, and Tech Sgts. Daryl Harris and Reggie Nelson, discuss the benefits of the Air Force Assistance Fund. They're members of the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

to our daily flying and maintenance. If we do our mission successfully on a daily basis, then we must apply the basics to assure we are prepared to launch each jet for combat training. That's why this inspection is our true combat test ... the team will evaluate how well we are prepared to do the basics of maintenance and logistics. No stone will be left unturned — that's good.

When the LSET team departs, we will be handed a "report card," but it will not have a grade. Rather, it will be a complete description of our strengths and areas for improvement. They are looking to see if we follow the basic tenets of maintenance in the backshops and on the flightline. Your preparation is essential. In the end, we will have proven to ACC and ourselves that we are ready to go to war. Our reputation is renowned from Kosovo to Iraq ... let's show them our Spirit Team is fully combat capable.

Commander reflects on DUI consequences, impact

By Maj. Bruce Bartholomew

509th Logistics Readiness Squadron Commander

I started writing this editorial several weeks ago; however, as I was putting the finishing touches on it Saturday morning, the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron experienced an incident that resulted in an airman receiving a citation for underage drinking and driving under the influence. As I sat in disbelief of this event, I realized I needed to change my editorial topic. I want to share my perspective as a squadron commander so you might understand the time and work required to deal with an alcohol-related incident.

First off, I'm upset. The 509th LRS just had a bowling party Feb. 13, to celebrate 90 days without a DUI. That night, just hours after this celebration, this airman received the citation. In fact, this person was bowling when I thanked the squadron for doing the right thing and taking care of each other. I was proud of my squadron and knew that we could achieve our next goal of 180 days without a DUI. I was wrong and I'm not the only one who has to pay the price.

Of course, the airman will be punished. This includes the loss of base driving privileges, increased insurance rates and other punitive, civil and military punishments. But others will also have to pay for this airman's error.

First, his supervisor and our first sergeant worked on their holiday weekend to process this airman through the law enforcement desk. I'm sure these NCOs would rather



Photo by Senior Airman Shawn Clements

Maj. Bruce Bartholomew, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, checks a fuel line with Airman 1st Class Derek Evans, 509th LRS.

spend their off-duty time with their families instead of filling out paperwork with the 509th Security Forces Squadron.

Next, his flight's leadership came in on the holiday Monday and prepared the DUI briefing for the wing commander's weekly staff meeting. After preparing the slides and handouts, the flight commander practiced his briefing. The airman has taken away precious on- and off-duty time

from this officer and his family. In addition, the briefing was presented in dry run form to the vice commander before the staff meeting. Col. Ned Schoeck, 509th Bomb Wing vice commander, returned from leave Tuesday and will not appreciate the time taken away from his schedule or from his opportunity to fly with the men and women of the 509th Operations Group.

This airman had an appointment to visit with Chief Master Sgt. Keith Cobb, 509th BW command chief master sergeant. I've seen Chief Cobb's calendar and I know he would rather use his time to visit duty sections than sit in his office discussing this airman's behavior.

Next to pay a price is the duty section which gets to pick up his work load. In the 509th LRS, most airmen must drive a government vehicle to accomplish their daily tasks. This airman won't be driving so his already burdened duty section gets to perform his tasks in addition to their own. I'm sure the flight leadership will ask me for additional manpower assistance but we're low on extra bodies right now, so I foresee longer shifts for these hard-working men and women.

But, we're not done yet. The life skills support center professionals get to perform an alcohol dependency analysis on this airman. While performing these kinds of analyses is part of their job, this is time they could dedicate to their already heavy patient load.

Moreover, the time our legal professionals, both the

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The deadline for article submissions to the *Whiteman Spirit* is noon Friday. If a holiday falls on Friday, the deadline then becomes 4 p.m. Thursday. Articles will be published on a space-available basis. Submission doesn't guarantee publication.

For more information, call the *Whiteman Spirit* office at 687-6133, fax us at 687-7948, e-mail: whiteman.spirit@whiteman.af.mil or write to us at:

509th BW/PA, 509 Spirit Blvd. Ste. 111
Whiteman AFB, Mo. 65305

CSAF seeks improvements in warfighting

By Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper outlined new ways to make 21st century airmen faster, more efficient warfighters.

General Jumper spoke at the Air Force Association's 2004 Air Warfare Symposium in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Feb. 12.

The general's key point in addressing future capabilities centered on exercising air and ground forces together in ways that ensure Army leaders know what air and space power can do for them.

"What the (secretary of defense) told us to do is work this notion of a standing joint force headquarters," he said. "One of the initiatives that we'll roll out is the future force structure, a structure designed to put our numbered air forces directly in the planning process of the joint forces commanders on a daily basis using our air operations center weapon system to network — set up around the world, 24-hours a day, seven days a week in close coordination.

"It would be set up so that when we deploy forces it



Gen. John Jumper

would be these AOCs that monitor the deployment of air expeditionary forces into the (area of responsibility) just like they would if they were in combat," General Jumper said. "We don't have to set our combat command and control systems aside until it's time to go to war."

In the proposed new structure, the units would report to the numbered air forces who in-turn would report directly to the major command. The NAF could concentrate solely on its wartime missions.

General Jumper said the Air Force can put together a suite of capabilities that would be the lynchpin in bringing together the command and control and the battle management that can link AOCs to get rapid decisions in the machine-to-machine global networking interfaces.

"In the future we will make this AOC weapon system smaller and lighter until we get to the point that when we deploy an AOC, it's a bunch of people getting on an airliner with laptops under their arms," General Jumper said. "They can go set up virtually anywhere."

The general also discussed joint warfighting space. This concept suggests that military organizations with space capabilities can develop the ability to rapidly launch rocket payloads, such as micro-satellites with specific areas of operation for communication, or other sensors.

"Networked properly with national security space, this will continue to leverage our space capabilities to the advantage of the joint force commander," General Jumper

said. "This operationalizes space power with features we value most — speed and responsiveness."

The general also said the Air Force wants to take a look at the kinetic capability of these rapidly launchable rockets. He described a conventional capability that will be focused on getting warheads on targets halfway around the globe in minutes or hours, instead of days or weeks. General Jumper also said that capability blends into the area of objectives that deal with long-range strikes.

"(Placing) ground forces deep behind enemy lines, as the new Army brigade combat team concept of operations says it will do, (will require them) to have something close overhead and within one flight of the problem areas," he said. "In this case we looked at a bridging capability to take us from where we are now, to what we might need to help us penetrate with a significant bomb load in those situations."

Finally, General Jumper said the Air Force would investigate using more blended wings.

"We've seen the growth of the blended wings," he said. "JSTARS (Joint Strategic Targeting and Reconnaissance System) has Air National Guard and active-duty serving together. We see the benefits of having units that can surge to increase crew ratios and increase availability of platforms engaged in combat, either through volunteerism or mobilization. We'll do what we can to move those benefits into the fighter world."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Tax time

Master Sgt. Christine Fausnight, 509th Comptroller Squadron, records information from Tech. Sgt. William and Tanya Buckshalter, 509th Maintenance Squadron. The Whiteman Air Force Base Tax Assistance Office has filed 654 tax returns for a refund value of \$1,148,931 as of Tuesday. The office's operating hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays. The office is located in the community center next to Tickets & Travel. Taxpayers can call the tax office at 687-3799 to schedule an appointment for tax assistance. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance representatives are available to help taxpayers prepare 2003 tax returns. Volunteers are only trained to help with 1040 E-Z, 1040A and basic 1040 forms.

14 Whiteman members complete NCO Academy

Fourteen Whiteman Air Force Base technical sergeants graduated from the NCO Academy Feb. 12 at Keesler AFB, Miss.

Award winner is:
Joan Anderson-Brown, 509th Communications Squadron, was selected as Distinguished Graduate.

Other graduates are:
Darron Hunter, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron,
Tracey Burns, 509th CS,
Robert Goeke, 509th Contracting Squadron,
Melissa Hendershot, 509th Security

Forces Squadron,
Devendra Polavarapu, 509th Mission Support Squadron,
Michael Platt, 509th AMXS,
Vernice Belin, 509th Services Squadron,
Eric Holland, 509th Maintenance Squadron,
James Esarey, 509th Medical Operations Squadron,
Chad Hoagland, 509th Bomb Wing,
Bret Frank, 509th MXS,
Todd Lewis, 509th Operations Support Squadron, and
Charles Boone, 372nd Test and Evaluation Squadron.

Army-Air Force Hometown news

Did you know you can fill out a Department of Defense Form 2266, Hometown News Release, for graduation from the NCO Academy? For more details, call Staff Sgt. Francesca Popp at 687-6130.

Team Whiteman Monthly Flying Goals					
	325 BS	393 BS	394 CTS	442 FW	1/135 AHB
Goal	243.0	294.0	309.4	321.0	148.0
Flown	130.7	144.8	130.3	144.9	155.0
Remaining	112.3	149.2	179.1	176.1	.
19 Feb 04					
Ahead/Behind	- 34.3	-76.2	-98.0	.	+ 7.0

This week in Whiteman history

1943 — On Feb. 15, the 509th Base Headquarters and Air Base Squadron was activated in San Antonio, Texas, and was assigned to the Gulf Coast Army Air Forces Training Center (later the Army Air Force Central Flying Training Command).



Photo illustration by Senior Airman Nick Martin

We'll drive you home

Airmen Against Drunk Driving recently elected new club officers. They are: Senior Airmen Kelly Johnson, president, 509th Medical Support Squadron, and Tracy Woods, scheduler, 509th Maintenance Operations Squadron, Airmen 1st Class Kevin Smith, trainer, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, and Zak Giguere, Web master, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, Staff Sgt. Erin Winder, statistician, 509th MDSS, Airmen 1st Class Katie Weems, treasurer, 394th Combat Training Squadron, and Anthony Muller, vice president, 509th Communications Squadron, Senior Airman Joyce Baum, secretary, 509th MDSS, and Airman 1st Class Tony Clement, public affairs, 509th CS.

This space is reserved for advertisements

Charter Chief chats about changes

By Master Sgt. Dee Ann Poole
Public Affairs

When Chief Master Sgt. Jim “Flasch” Flaschenriem pinned on his stripes on Dec. 1, 1959, there was no tradition to the event. As one of the first to be promoted to the highest enlisted rank, he said it “wasn’t very exciting.”

“When the first chiefs were made, most of us who were promoted had already been in these higher positions for months or years,” said the chief, who spoke at the Chief’s Induction Ceremony Feb. 13.

Known as a Charter Chief because he was one of the first 625 to be promoted to the rank, he said many changes have taken place since his promotion in 1959.

“We were all sergeants. We didn’t get called chief until we forced the issue in the early 1970s. So even Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Paul Airey was addressed as Sergeant Airey,” the chief said.

Chief Flasch said when he was promoted he didn’t

change jobs or get new authority and no new grade vacancies were created. The Air Force simply changed a master sergeant position and to a chief master sergeant position.

“Today, the rank is prestigious. It wasn’t back then. There was a lot of jealousy,” he said.

When he was promoted, many of the 58,000 to 60,000 master sergeants had dates of rank in 1942 and 1943.

“Back then, time in grade was a big thing for promotion. They felt they should be the first ones promoted,” said Chief Flasch, who earned his stripes in 11 years, 5 months and seven days. “So many of them grew unhappy when they didn’t get promoted — they retired. We lost some good people but we also lost some we didn’t need and it opened it up (slots) so we could move younger, better-educated people” into those openings.

Promoted at the age of 31 while assigned to Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., Chief Flasch said he believes he was the best qualified. However, he said in today’s Air Force, he wouldn’t be mature enough to



Photo by Senior Airman Shawn Clements

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Jim Flaschenriem speaks to Master Sgt. Ray Guest, 509th Munitions Squadron.

handle the job.

Promotion to the top two ranks was designed for three reasons, he said. The first was the technology explosion.

“We needed enlisted people with greater education,

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1st Sergeant's View

(Editor's note: The 1st Sergeant's View gives Whiteman first sergeants a chance to remind people of correct uniform wear, customs and courtesies, and proper military decorum. Each week, a different first sergeant will share their view.)

By Master Sgt. Henry Starks

509th Operations Support Squadron First Sergeant

In December I received word that a family in need was going to arrive here three days before Christmas. Almost instantaneously alarms sounded and agencies were contacted for assistance. A Christmas tree with all the trimmings, monetary gifts, food baskets, stockings and gifts for the children surrounded the tree. This family received a true welcome.

But I thought, "How are they going to live after the leftovers are eaten and the wrapping paper thrown out?" The family still needed transportation, shelter, furniture, household items, etc. The list of needs was overwhelming. The last thing I wanted this family to do was trade fulfillment of needs of necessity for huge debts.

After talking with the family, I contacted the Whiteman First Sergeants Group and they offered assistance and the 509th Operations Support Squadron stood ready to answer any call I placed.

After securing a home, the next order of business was furnishing it. What better place to get it than from the non-appropriated funds furniture sale at the Whiteman Inn?

The problem was, my troop was in his first term airman's course and his spouse was at a temporary living facility with a sick child. So, I arrived on base at 6:30 a.m. to make the purchases for them. Although the lodging staff was aware of a family's need, they were not permitted to allow me in early. So, I patiently stood in line and waited my turn to enter the sale area.

The first sergeant's donation coupled with the squadron's allowed us to purchase a house full of furniture to include a complete queen size bed, nightstands, dresser, loveseat, chairs, end table, entertainment center, color TV and a dining room table. My former commander heard of the need and donated a twin-size bed, trundle and the bedding. A family friend donated a washer, dryer, sofa, four chairs and kitchen items.

The fruit of the labor was blooming! I, along with the family, was so moved by the generosity that I had to take a moment to stop and catch my breath. I literally thought my heart was going to explode from all of the blessings. I stopped and asked myself, "Where does all this outpouring come from?" My dad who retired from farming had always advised me to "look at the root."

Looking at the root, I began at my arrival two years ago. Since my arrival I had heard of this "Whiteman Spirit." Six months after our arrival my wife had back surgery and then I deployed. During my deployment, our son was diagnosed



Photo by Senior Airman Shawn Clements

Master Sgt. Henry Starks, 509th Operations Support Squadron first sergeant, loads a microwave into his car that he's going to donate to Airman's Attic.

with autism. Needless to say, things were a little rough — my family wasn't well, I was gone and our country was positioning itself for war. I witnessed the spirit of this community as they surrounded my family and continued to be there even upon my return in May 2003. So as I reflected on the past two years, slowly my eyes and my heart started to realize that maybe there was some truth behind this spirit thing everyone was talking about.

I witnessed first hand the gifts members of this community offered in order to increase or help make the lives of unknown people brighter. It was evident through all of the bounties that were distributed over the holidays. However, this type of outreach occurs daily within our community. What we see above ground is the fruit of our labor but it starts below ground in the roots which is the Whiteman Spirit.

The spirit is real, and it's alive and at work each day in this community. It's cultivated and reflected in the countless hours spent taking care of our No. 1 asset — each other. I'm honored and humbled to be part of a community of caretakers who keep the spirit alive and real. My life is richer because of you. Thanks for all you do and have a great Air Force day!

CHIEF, continued from Page 6

greater leadership ability and higher technical knowledge. These guys who had dates of rank of 1942 and 1943 weren't necessarily them," the chief said.

Grade suppression was another reason for the new ranks. This meant one master sergeant supervising one or more master sergeants.

"I had three master sergeants under me, all of who were senior to me. That was not a good situation," the chief said.

The third reason for the new ranks was grade stagnation. "These old guys were hanging around. They were kind of retired on active duty and we couldn't get any promotions," he said.

The chiefs asked for special recognition through a different uniform, special privileges or being addressed as chief, but Chief Flasch said the requests fell on deaf ears.

"When I look back on it, I think the officers at that time didn't have much education either. They were afraid the chief might steal some of their thunder. They didn't really want the program to succeed," Chief Flasch said. "We weren't about to let it sink."

He said as more people were promoted to chief, a chiefs group was formed and in the late 1960s they again asked to be addressed as chief. Once again, the request was denied so the chiefs took it upon themselves to call each other chief and it soon caught on.

"And it just spread. It was such a natural thing. And suddenly, the chief was set apart," said Chief Flasch, who retired in 1968.

He also stressed the importance of the change that happened between officers and enlisted members. In the early days, Chief Flasch said enlisted members were treated like a herd of cattle.

For instance, Chief Flasch said when he sewed on his chief stripes, he had no authority to sign a requisition for a roll of toilet paper. "The only time I could sign my name to any document was when I re-enlisted or signed out on leave," he said.

The climate changed when the Air Force Academy graduated its first class in the late 1950s.

He said the new officers weren't worried about the chiefs stealing their thunder. Mentoring by the chiefs opened the dialogue between officers and enlisted members, Chief Flasch said.

"It formed a new respect. When these academy graduates hit the field grade (rank), they didn't hesitate to give chiefs the authority to do things," he said.

Today, Chief Flasch said he's proud of the role he played in shaping the Air Force.

"I'm proud I had to the opportunity to be a small part of building this great Air Force. I'm also proud of the people who are serving today. It does my heart good that we still have young people who want to serve," he said.

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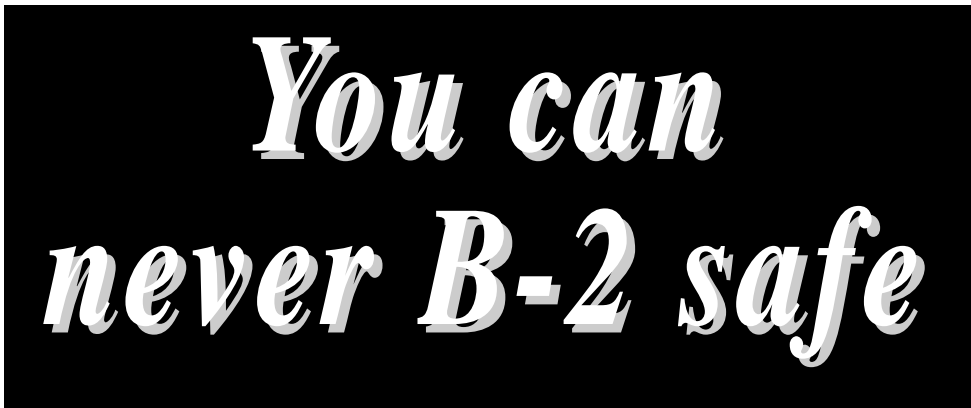
IMPACT, continued from Page 2

prosecuting attorney and the military judge advocates, spend to prepare the paperwork to bring charges against this airman could be better used pursuing more violent criminals in our midst or providing legal aid to our airmen and their families.

Lastly, I had to rewrite my editorial and I had the privilege of spending time discussing punishment with my staff. I also get to deliver the punishment. I'd rather spend this time with my troops who didn't get into trouble and with my family.

Because of this alcohol-related incident, many people will spend time and energy on this airman. We will deliver punishment, we will provide legal counsel and health care, and we will pick up the additional workload. And, the 509th LRS gets to start again at day one toward being DUI free.

Each of us pays a price when someone gets a DUI. Please do like the majority of my squadron and take care of each other, set high standards and stay out from behind the wheel when you drink.



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Whiteman Spirit Award



Bob Collins

509th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Bob Collins, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, received the Whiteman Spirit Award from Col. Ned Schoeck, 509th Bomb Wing vice commander, Wednesday.

Lt. Col. Fred Niblock, 509th Bomb Wing, nominated Mr. Collins for the award because he designed a data base to help the 509th BW prepare for the upcoming unit compliance inspection.

“This data base offers a self-inspection and documentation platform for people to use,” Colonel Niblock said. “Without this data base it would be much harder to assure the wing’s senior leaders that the 509th BW is ready.”

Through Mr. Collins’ efforts, there’s no debating the wing’s compliance with Air Combat Command directives, Colonel Niblock said.

“I certainly expect this effort to be identified as an ACC Best Practice and will be the genesis to an ACC directed way of doing business in the future,” Colonel Niblock said. “Mr. Collins is another example of hidden talent in the 509th BW.”

Personally Speaking

Duty title: Automotive supervisor

Time on station: 8 years

Time in service: 32 years

Hometown: Warrensburg, Mo.

Spouse: Fran

Hobbies: Golf

Best thing about Whiteman: The golf course.

Pet peeves: Computers that won’t work.

What motivates your winning spirit? Great people and getting the job done.

If you could change one thing at Whiteman, what would it be? Fewer temporary duty assignments for our military.

Submitting a Whiteman Spirit Award

Individuals are nominated from within their units or by customers impressed by the individual making Whiteman a better place to live and work by going far beyond his or her assigned duties to “make it happen.”

If you know someone who has the Whiteman Spirit, send the nomination to the 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 509, Suite 111, or e-mail whiteman.spirit@Whiteman.af.mil.



Explosive ordnance disposal: *having a blast!*



Courtesy photo
Staff Sgt. Tom Pilla, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, performs a reconnaissance check on a landmine.



Courtesy photo
Senior Airman Chris Adams, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, checks global positioning system coordinates on the AN/PVS-11 as Senior Airman Alex Rodriguez, 509th CES, performs a long-range reconnaissance exercise.

By Senior Airman Shawn Clements
Public Affairs

Explosive ordnance disposal technicians make things explode but they can also help prevent it.

EOD's mission is to protect Air Force members and property from explosive, chemical, and radiological hazards, but isn't limited to those things.

"We also provide support to the U.S. Secret Service and the Department of State when the president, vice president and other high-profile dignitaries need protection," said Staff Sgt. Jay Tomten, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD technician.

Starting with a seven-month technical school, the road to being a fully qualified EOD technician isn't easy.

The upgrade training requires EOD members to complete a career development course and participate in range clearances at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Luke AFB, Ariz., Hill AFB, Utah, and Eielson AFB, Alaska, Sergeant Tomten said.

EOD members maintain a training range here and also support the Hardwood Range in Wisconsin and the Jefferson Range in Indiana. "We use our range at least once a month, the Jefferson Range annually and the Hardwood Range two to four times a year," Sergeant Tomten said.

The EOD section disposes of 200 to 300 pounds of explosives here per year. At temporary duty assignment ranges they often dispose of close to 200,000 pounds of explosives per year.

The EOD section conducts and attends more than 300 exercises and classes annually to stay proficient.

With all the training, inspections, exercises and support that the 16 EOD members provide, the shop epitomizes the 509th Bomb Wing's motto "Follow Us," Sergeant Tomten said.



Photo by Senior Airman Shawn Clements

Senior Airman Stephen Dubois, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, operates the MK-3 remote operated neutralization system robot. The MK-3 RONS is used to help explosive ordnance disposal technicians neutralize possible explosive devices.



Courtesy photo

Airman 1st Class Robert Brousseau checks Tech. Sgt. Douglas Adams' radioactive protective equipment. They're members of the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron.



Photo by Senior Airman Shawn Clements

Staff Sgt. Jay Tomten, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, checks a package with the RTR-4 X-ray machine.



Photo by Senior Airman Shawn Clements

Airman 1st Class James Fitzgerald, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, sets up a MK-40 stand-off disrupter. The MK-40 shoots a projectile to break apart a possible explosive device so explosive ordnance disposal technicians can see the contents of the item.

Organizations sponsor annual scholarships

The Whiteman Officers Spouse Club and Whiteman Enlisted Community Organization sponsor their annual spouse and graduating high school senior education awards. The application deadline is March 31.

- Spouse applicants must:
- ✔ Be a high school graduate or possess a GED equivalent.
 - ✔ Be pursuing an undergraduate degree.
 - ✔ Be or plan to be enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university for the fall 2004 semester.
 - ✔ Be the spouse of an active-duty, Reserve or Guard member, retired military member, a deceased military member, or a prisoner of war or missing in action member.
 - ✔ Not have earned the scholarship for 2003. However, the applicant will still be considered for textbook awards that may be given.
- Application criteria include:
- ✔ Leadership ability.
 - ✔ Personal goals.
 - ✔ Volunteer and community activities.

- ✔ Career-related experience.
 - ✔ Personal interview.
 - ✔ Essay.
- Applicants must:
- ✔ Complete and sign the application
 - ✔ Have one letter of character recommendation from an adult that’s not a relative
 - ✔ A maximum 2-page typed essay written by the applicant outlining personal goals sought from higher education and why the scholarship is being applied for.
- Graduating high school seniors must:
- ✔ Be a dependent of an active duty, Reserve or Guard member, POW/MIA, retiree or deceased military member.
 - ✔ Live in the local area and graduate from a high school within 75 miles of Whiteman or home-schooled.
 - ✔ Provide a complete copy of their high school transcripts. They must be signed and certified by counselors, to include grades to date, current class standing and ACT/SAT scores.

- ✔ Include a resume, to include activities in the school and community, outside employment, honors or awards received, and any other pertinent information.
 - ✔ A signed statement of understanding, which is attached to the application.
 - ✔ A goals statement and discussion of educational, career and aspirations. The statement must not exceed 300 typed words.
- The most competitive high school seniors will be interviewed and judged on class rank, GPA, ACT/SAT scores, activities, leadership, essay and interview.
- Applications are available from squadron first sergeants, the library, community center, education center and family support center.
- The completed application must be postmarked no later than March 31 and be sent to Kristen Brechwald, WOSC Scholarship Committee, 703 Shamrock Lane, Warrensburg MO, 64093. *(Courtesy of the Whiteman Officers Spouses Club and Whiteman Enlisted Community Organization)*

This space is reserved for advertisements

What’s happening

Education

For more details, visit <https://wwwmil.whiteman.af.mil/509mss/educ/homepage.htm> or call 687-5750.

Commissioning briefing set

A commissioning briefing begins at 1:30 p.m. March 11 at the education center. This briefing is open to enlisted members seeking an Air Force commission. Call for more details.

Community

Falconaires to perform

The U.S. Air Force Academy Band Falconaires will provide free entertainment at 7 p.m. March 11 at Central Missouri State University’s Hendricks Hall in Warrensburg. While the concert is free, tickets are required. The 509th Bomb Wing will get 250 tickets. They will be available through the first sergeants. The event is sponsored by the Warrensburg Military Affairs Committee. For more details, call the committee at (660) 747-3168.

WOSC sponsors auction

The Whiteman Officers’ Spouses’ Club hosts an art auction at 7 p.m. Feb. 27 at Mission’s End. Hors d’oeuvres will be served. Profits from the auction will support the WOSC scholarship fund and other charities. The art includes framed oils, watercolors, serigraphs, lithographs and reproductions by renowned artists Howard Behrens, Robert Heindel, Claude Monet and others.

Dress is casual or duty uniform. Tickets cost \$8 in

advance and \$10 at the door. For tickets, call Rachelle Sanchez at 563-3905 or Angelle Tibbets at 563-3095.

PREP seminar scheduled

The prevention and relationship enhancement program begins at 9 a.m. Feb. 27. The seminar is for couples who want to problem solve effectively. The PREP approach helps couples build effective communication skills and protect relationships from erosion. For more details or to register, call family advocacy at 687-4342.

Retail store hosts scrap sale

A retail store will sell scrap items from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. March 1. The store is located in Bldg. 120. For more details, call Pat Martinez at 687-2017 after Wednesday.

Awards ceremony scheduled

The 509th Maintenance Group annual Maintenance Professional of the Year Awards banquet begins at 5:30 p.m. March 26 at Mission’s End. Attire is battle dress uniform for military members and business casual for civilians. The cost is \$12.35 for members and \$14.35 for non-members. To purchase tickets or for more details, call Tech. Sgt. Scott Simpson at 687-1217, Master Sgt. Michael Hayward at 687-1435, or Senior Master Sgts. Scott Savage, at 687-7126 and Richard Harken, at 687-1918.

Video seminar for parents available

The 1-2-3 Magic! program is a two-week videotape seminar that teaches parents easy-to-follow steps for disciplining children ages 2-12 without yelling, arguing or spanking. Parents also learn techniques for handling misbehavior in public and dealing with testing and manipula-

tion. For more details or to register, call family advocacy at 687-4342.

Class helps battle depression

A depression management class begins at 8:30 a.m. Mondays at the life skills support center. This is a four-session workshop designed for people who are experiencing depressed moods. Participants learn how to identify their pattern of depression, reactivate themselves, adopt a healthy lifestyle and improve their interpersonal relationships. For more details, call the Life Skills Support Center at 687-4340.

Anxiety management class set

An anxiety management class begins at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays. This four-session workshop focuses upon learning a set of skills for effective management of anxiety. This program requires a willingness to break old habits and to do some things differently. Each session is packed with information that is practical, informative and helpful. For more details, call the life skills support center at 687-4340.

Family Support

Call 687-7132 for details on these events or other family support center activities. Events take place at the FSC.

Class helps with move

A mandatory smooth move seminar for people planning to move overseas begins at 1 p.m. Tuesday. Facilitators will discuss the financial benefits associated with moving and provide a variety of useful resources. PCS orders aren’t necessary and spouses are encouraged to attend.

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Menus

Knob Noster Elementary School	Whiteman Elementary School
Monday: Egg roll, rice, Chinese-style vegetables and peaches	Monday: Cheeseburger, nachos, peas, fruit and cake
Tuesday: Chicken nuggets, spinach grapes and Jell-O	Tuesday: Taco salad, beans, fruit and brownie
Wednesday: Meatballs, mashed potatoes, peas, pineapple chunks and rolls	Wednesday: Pork steaks, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, fruit and roll
Thursday: Taco, pinto beans, apple and fruit chews	Thursday: Pizza, corn, salad and fruit cobbler
Friday: Rib sandwich, baked beans, pears and cake	Friday: Chicken noodle soup, grilled cheese sandwich, beets and fruit crisp

Taste test

Senior Airman Emily Renner and Airman 1st Class Randi Johnson, 509th Security Forces Squadron, sort through appetizers at a food tasting show Feb. 10 at the Ozark Inn. More than 25 vendors participated. The show introduced meal card holders to new food products. Attendees sampled the items, then voted on which food they would like to see on the menus of the Ozark Inn and Touch n' Go.




Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

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Three-mendous

Security Forces nets championship hat-trick

By Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan
Public Affairs

This time there was no big celebration. There was no victory dance.

After the 509th Security Forces Squadron intramural basketball players beat the 509th Communications Squadron 49-36 to win their third consecutive Whiteman intramural league championship, they simply raised their fists.

But then, when you've won as much as SFS, celebrating can become repetitive.

"It's very hard to win three in a row," said SFS coach Lonny Watson, whose team finished 22-2. "These guys fought hard all year. They had some good competition. Once again they persevered and made it awesome this year for everybody."

And SFS achieved the milestone with many of the same players. Justin Geers, Kevin Jacovino, Phillip Blascoe and Damien Needom have each been with the team during its three-year championship run. Jeff Fluck played the last two.

"They fight hard," Watson said. "They have a will to win."

After dropping the first contest 45-44 on a last-second three, SFS used a deep bench and defensive hustle to wear down CS in the second game. CS, the winner of the losing bracket, needed to beat SFS twice for the championship. After winning the first, the CS ran out of gas in the second game.

"We changed our style a little bit (in the second game)," Watson said. "We didn't play very well in the first game. We didn't shoot very well. The second game, guys started taking over. I think (CS) got a little tired."

Rotating players such as Geers, Jacovino, Fluck, Jeremy Guidry and Needom, the SFS bench ran as many as 10 deep which kept five players on the court fresh.

"We knew we had an extended bench,"

Geers said. "We knew we were going to wear them down. About halfway through the (second) game they were pretty worn out."

Meanwhile CS, which finished the season at 17-9, has just seven active players.

"Security Forces is extremely talented," CS coach Robert Clyburn said. "They have a real deep bench. We're not as deep as they are. In the end we ran out of gas. But my players played hard. I'm proud of our season."

In the first game, Tyron Wright almost single handedly kept CS in the game, pouring in a game-high 22 points. But it was Ameer Weston who hit one of the biggest shots of the night.

With his team trailing 44-42 and 3.6 seconds remaining in regulation, Wright took the inbounds pass, drew two defenders, then tossed the ball to Weston. Weston sunk a wide-open three from the right base line as time expired. Weston scored 14 points in that game and pumped in 11 in the second contest.

"We baited them into thinking Wright was going to get the ball," Clyburn said. "They double-teamed him and Weston got open and we got the pass to him."

"That's just a testament to what type of player (Weston) is. He's always a team player and ready to produce when we need him to."

SFS built its biggest lead of the second game after a three-point field goal by Geers which capped an 8-0 run. It made the score 32-15 with less than five minutes remaining in the third quarter.

"We had a good run," Watson said. "We got some good baskets underneath. We got some good looks."

CS bounced back from a second round loss to the 509th Mission Support Squadron with two consecutive victories to qualify for the championship round.

"I can't say enough about the overall effort of the team," Clyburn said. "They played like champions all season."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Joel Lanning, 509th Communications Squadron, gets his shot rejected by Jeff Fluck, 509th Security Forces Squadron.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Justin Geers, 509th Security Forces Squadron, defends Tyron Wright, 509th Communications Squadron, Tuesday night.

SFS leader helps put defense in 'geer'

By Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan
Public Affairs

With star player Tyron Wright dominating the 509th Security Forces basketball team in the paint, SFS coach Lonny Watson called on his own star.

Team captain Justin Geers used his aggressive style of defense to frustrate Wright during the Whiteman intramural basketball championship games Tuesday night.

The 6-foot-5-inch Wright scored 20 points in the game's first three quarters. During that time, coach Watson had Jeff Fluck guarding the versatile Wright, who can play every position on the floor. Geers guarded Wright during the fourth quarter and held the former Air Force Academy star to zero field goals during that quarter. However, CS managed to pull out a last-second victory on a three by Ameer Weston, 54-53.

Geers continued that trend in the second game, helping lead SFS to a 49-36 triumph to clinch the league title. Wright scored 15 points but missed numerous shots, partly because of Geers' defense.

"Justin has done that for the last three years," Watson said. "He's a clutch player. I can't say enough about him. He works hard."

During one sequence in the third quarter, Wright missed four consecutive shots in the paint. Geers said his attacking defense helped

contribute to Wright's offensive struggles.

"Every time he put the ball down I tried to steal the ball from him," Geers said. "It allowed me to play behind him because he had to extend his dribble out. It became frustrating for him. I tried to get a hand in his face."

Geers also sparked his team with his offense. Geers scored 12 consecutive points in the third quarter on five baskets. Two of those baskets were from three-point range as he finished with a game-high 16 points. Geer scored nine points in the first game.

"That guy's always working," Fluck said. "If he's not working on the floor, he's working on the bench. That guy will do anything to get the team going."

Geers showed his toughness this season playing through a shoulder injury. Watson said in addition to Geers' hustling, rebounding and shooting skills, Geers also helps his team verbally.

"He's very vocal," Watson said. "He understands the game very well. He's an emotional leader and takes control."

Geers is one of three members of the squad that has been on all three championship teams. He said he relishes the third championship because of the level of adversity the team faced this season.

"We set pretty high standards to achieve that, so it's a great accomplishment," Geers said.